

376.275 Lien on motor vehicles for storage or towing charges -- Attempt to notify registered owner.

- (1) When a motor vehicle has been involuntarily towed or transported pursuant to order of police, other public authority, or private person or business for any reason or when the vehicle has been stolen or misappropriated and its removal from the public ways has been ordered by police, other public authority, or by private person or business, or in any other situation where a motor vehicle has been involuntarily towed or transported by order of police, other authority, or by private person or business, the police, other authority, private person or business shall attempt to ascertain from the Transportation Cabinet the identity of the registered owner of the motor vehicle or lessor of a motor carrier as defined in KRS Chapter 281 and within ten (10) business days of the removal shall, by certified mail, attempt to notify the registered owner at the address of record of the make, model, license number and vehicle identification number of the vehicle and of the location of the vehicle, and the requirements for securing the release of said motor vehicle.
- (2) If a vehicle described in subsection (1) of this section is placed in a garage or other storage facility, the owner of the facility shall attempt to provide the notice provided in subsection (1) of this section, by certified mail, to the registered owner at the address of record of the motor vehicle or lessor of a motor carrier as defined in KRS Chapter 281 within ten (10) business days of recovery of, or taking possession of the motor vehicle. The notice shall contain the information as to the make, model, license number and vehicle identification number of the vehicle, the location of the vehicle and the amount of reasonable charges due on the vehicle. When the owner of the facility fails to provide notice as provided herein, the motor vehicle storage facility shall forfeit all storage fees accrued after ten (10) business days from the date of tow. This subsection shall not apply to a garage or storage facility owned or operated by a government entity.
- (3) Any person engaged in the business of storing or towing motor vehicles, who has substantially complied with the aforementioned requirements of this section, shall have a lien on the motor vehicle, for the reasonable or agreed charges for storing or towing the vehicle, as long as it remains in his possession. If after a period of forty-five (45) days the reasonable or agreed charges for storing or towing a motor vehicle have not been paid, the motor vehicle may be sold to pay the charges after the owner has been notified by certified mail ten (10) days prior to the time and place of the sale. If the proceeds of the sale of any vehicle pursuant to this section are insufficient to satisfy accrued charges for towing, transporting, and storage, the sale and collection of proceeds shall not constitute a waiver or release of responsibility for payment of unpaid towing, transporting, and storage charges by the owner or responsible casualty insurer of the vehicle. This lien shall be subject to prior recorded liens.
- (4) The provisions of this section shall not apply when a local government causes a vehicle to be towed pursuant to KRS 82.605 to 82.640 or if state government causes a vehicle to be towed.

Effective: July 13, 1990

History: Amended 1990 Ky. Acts ch. 9, sec. 1, effective July 13, 1990. -- Amended 1986 Ky. Acts ch. 238, sec. 1, effective July 15, 1986. -- Created 1962 Ky. Acts ch. 20, sec. 1.